

ing some thousands of years of advance upon the preceding, until we came to fairly organized warlike heathens not essentially different from the African foes of the Egypt of the first twenty dynasties, and then to Moslems fundamentally kin to the savage Moslem conquerors of the seventh century of our own era. Then we steamed into Khartoum, and found the twentieth century superimposed upon the seventh, and on the whole with intelligence, ability and a very lofty sense of duty, endeavoring to raise the seventh century so as to bring it somewhere within touching distance of the twentieth. It is a colossal task. We are none of us gifted with the power to see with certainty into the future; we cannot say what the outcome will be. Perhaps what the French are now doing in Algiers, what the English are now doing in Egypt and the Sudan, will in the end result in failure, and the culture they have planted wither away, just as the Græco-Roman culture which flourished in the same lands a couple of thousand years ago afterwards vanished. On the other hand, it may persist, or at least, even if it does vanish in the end, leave mighty forces carrying on the work in a changed form. In any event the task is a mighty task, which only a great and powerful nation could attempt, and which it is a high and honorable thing to have attempted.

At Khartoum we stayed at the Palace—and there was not an hour of our stay that was not full of associations with Gordon's memory. The Sirdar, Sir Eginald Wingate,

was a sick man. He had gone to Cairo,
whence he had to
go to London; but he had left a letter for me,
and Slatin
Pasha, his right-hand man, received us with
more than mere
friendly enthusiasm. In journeying through
British East
Africa, Uganda and the Sudan, I had been
both surprised
and touched to find how the settlers in the
first province,
and the military and civil officials in all three
provinces,
greeted me. Indeed I was both a little puzzled
and a little
amused to find that they simply ignored the
fact that I was
a citizen of another nation. They felt that I
was an out-of-
door man, who had dealt with questions of
empire in